

### ***Listing of the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) A mutant vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) having the mutation  $\Delta$ M51 in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein.

4. (Currently amended) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, further comprising one or more mutations in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein selected from the group consisting of  $\Delta$ M51-54,  $\Delta$ M51-57, ~~V221F, S226R,  $\Delta$ V221-S226~~, V221X, S226X, or a combination thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, comprising one or more mutations in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein selected from the group consisting of:  $\Delta$ M51/V221F;  $\Delta$ M51-54/V221F;  $\Delta$ M51-57/V221F;  $\Delta$ M51/S226R;  $\Delta$ M51-54/S226R, and  $\Delta$ M51-57/S226R.

6. (Previously presented) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, comprising one or more mutations in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein selected from the group consisting of:  $\Delta$ M51/V221F/S226R;  $\Delta$ M51-54/V221F/S226R and  $\Delta$ M51-57/V221F/ S226R.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The mutant VSV according to claim 3, wherein said mutant VSV is capable of triggering the production of one or more cytokines in an infected cell.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) ~~The viral vector~~ mutant VSV according to claim 3-claim 9, further comprising a heterologous nucleic acid.

11. (Previously presented) A vaccine vector comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein and a heterologous nucleic acid encoding one or more antigens.

12. (Previously presented) A vaccine adjuvant comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein, said mutant VSV being capable of triggering the production of one or more cytokines in an infected cell.

13. (Currently amended) A selective oncolytic agent comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein[[ ]].

14. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein[[ ]].

15. (Previously presented) An immunogenic composition comprising a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the matrix (M) protein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said mutant VSV being capable of triggering the production of one or more cytokines in an infected cell.

16. (Withdrawn) Use of the mutant VSV according to claim 8 as an additive for pharmaceutical preparations of viruses to protect against virulent revertants arising in said preparation.

17. (Withdrawn) Use of the mutant VSV according to claim 8 in the treatment of a disease or disorder that can be alleviated by cytokine release.

18. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 17, wherein said disease or disorder is cancer, bacterial infection, viral infection or fungal infection.

19. (Withdrawn) Use of the viral vector according to claim 10 for delivery of said heterologous nucleic acid to a subject in need thereof.

20. (Currently amended) A kit comprising one or more containers and a mutant VSV having the mutation  $\Delta M51$  in the gene encoding the matrix (M) protein[[ ]].